

## GENERAL NEWS

### The Lesser Events of Last Week.

An imperial edict opens Yonamp-ho, Corea, to foreign trade.

Japan's losses since the opening of the war are said by Russians to be four cruisers and five torpedo boats.

Democratic Senators will continue efforts for an investigation of the Postoffice Department.

The Senate in executive session confirmed the nomination of General Wood to be Major General.

Sensational developments are expected when the receivers begin investigation of Sully & Co.'s books.

Gen. Nelson A. Miles suggests that the Prohibition National Convention be held after the other party conventions.

The House Committee on the Judiciary has voted to impeach Judge Chas. Swayne, Federal Judge for the District of Florida.

T. G. Craft was nominated by the people of Aiken, S. C., for the unexpired term in Congress of his father; Colonel Tillman has withdrawn.

The Japanese fleet again bombarded Port Arthur Monday night and the Russian land batteries and vessels in the harbor replied. The full effect of the engagement is not known, but it was not decisive.

875,544 LESS THAN 1902.

### The 1903 Cotton Crop Was 899,558 Bales—The Distribution of the Crop by States and Territories.

Washington, March 25.—The final report of the Census Bureau on cotton ginning showing the total cotton production for 1903 gives the following:

Number of commercial bales, including linters 10,399,558, against 11,275,105 for 1902.

The following table distributes the crop exclusive of linters, in the United States: 10,205,073 commercial bales, 9,359,472 square bales, 770,208 round bales, 75,393 Sea Island bales.

The total crop reduced to a common basis as to size of bales is an equivalent of 9,851,129 five hundred pound bales against 10,630,945 five hundred pound bales in 1902. The number of bales, counting round as half bales, including linters, was 10,014,454, against 10,784,473; the equivalent bales of a five hundred pound standard, including linters were 10,045,610, against 10,287,168 in 1902. The square bales upland crop, reported from ginneries, which aggregated 9,359,472, shows a decrease of 633,193 from 1902; the round bales, upland crop, reported from ginneries were 770,208, a decrease of 211,056; the bales of sea island cotton reported from ginneries were 75,393, a decrease of 29,560, and the bales of linters reported from cotton seed oil mills, were 194,485, a decrease of 1,738. These statistics were collected through a canvass of the individual ginneries of the cotton States, by 631 local special agents, who found that 30,218 ginneries had been oper-

ated for the crop of 1903, compared with 30,948 for 1902. In the final canvass for this crop where ginneries had not finished ginning they were requested to prepare careful estimates of the quantity of cotton which remained to be ginned at their establishments; their estimate amounting to 75,401 commercial bales have been included in the totals of the above table.

The distribution of the crop, exclusive of linters by States and Territories, giving the total commercial bales as follows:

Alabama, 1,123,959; Arkansas, 741,236; Florida, 58,572; Georgia, 1,329,278; Indian Territory, 312,776; Kansas, 75; Kentucky, 644; Louisiana, 858,568; Mississippi, 1,439,294; Missouri, 39,383; North Carolina, 555,330; Oklahoma, 204,957; South Carolina, 814,351; Tennessee, 250,437; Texas, 2,562,632; Virginia, 13,681.

The complete annual report on cotton ginning will be published about May 1.

### Notes from Our Washington Correspondent.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

The administration feels that it scored a very clever turn the other day when the Pension Office announced that disability on account of old age would be accepted as a proof for a claim for a pension when other evidence was lacking. Under this ruling a veteran over 62 years old may secure a pension of \$6 a month on account of old age, one 65 years old may get \$8 a month; one 68 years old \$10 a month, and one 70 years old, \$12 a month. It is expected that this will add to the annual pension bill about \$3,000,000. The Republicans regard the measure as a stroke of good policy just at this time as it successfully staves off the service pension bill, which had a good prospect of passing, and which would have caused an annual deficit of about \$50,000,000.

Members of Congress are bored beyond expression at the almost certain prospect of continuing the session until sometime in June. Both Republicans and Democrats had been anxious to get away from Washington not later than the 1st of May, and as a matter of fact, April 23 had been tentatively fixed for closing up shop. While these plans were being so carefully made, a cloud no bigger than a man's hand appeared on the horizon and has now grown to such proportions that it will doubtless require the almost undivided attention of the Senate and a part of the House to dispose of it. The cause of all the rumpus is the charges looking to the impeachment of Judge Swayne, of the Northern District of Florida. His case has been before the House Judiciary Committee all winter, and it is announced that that committee is about to recommend his impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors, the chief of which seem to be that he is habitually absent from his circuit; a non-resident of his district; imprisoning a lawyer

in contempt proceedings, imprisoning the son of a litigant, and sundry other similar items. The evidence is said to be such that the House will unquestionably vote to impeach the Judge whose case will then be taken to the Senate for trial. There the prosecution will be conducted by members of the House. A two-thirds vote of the Senators present is necessary to convict. An effort is being made to postpone the trial until the short session, but this will probably fail.

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The ship subsidy bill is submerged and though the name of the dead Hanna is, or was, a name to conjure with, it is not likely that it will bring it to the surface this session. The Philippine shipping bills drawn expressly for the benefit of American commerce at the expense of Filipinos, may (therefore?) keep at the front and be enacted into law. Secretary Taft has been violently opposed to these bills, and told your correspondent that such a policy would be "the robbery of the Filipinos;" but it is reported to-day that he has changed his mind, and will withdraw his opposition. Why?

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The canal commissioners intend to sail for Panama next Tuesday to look over the ground and plan the campaign. They have a gigantic task, but will receive all the backing which the President can give. In an open letter addressed to them he expresses his wish that the work be thoroughly and economically done. He declares that there is no politics in it; that he does not know the party affiliations of his appointees; that it is for the benefit of all mankind. He warns the commissioners that they must do the work as well as it can be done or he will find some other engineers to take their place. He also expects all subordinates to be efficient and honest, otherwise, they must be "discharged out of hand." Evidently the President looks upon this work as the crowning glory of his administration.

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The hearty acquiescence of the Northern Securities Company in the decision of the Supreme Court without further contest, and its haste to comply with the law as interpreted by the distinguished tribunal, pleases and encourages the officers of the government. The company gracefully submits to being disbanded and retires from business, thereby vindicating its assertion that in its organization Mr. Hill intended no violation of the law. Democrats in Congress insist that other great trusts shall be prosecuted with equal vigor, to which the administration responds that they will be attacked as fast as the Attorney-General accumulates evidence on which to base a sufficient indictment.

A. B. MARRIOTT.  
Washington, D. C., March 26, 1904.

In order further to insure our neutrality, President Roosevelt has issued an executive order to all officials of the government to abstain from speech that may cause irritation in either Russia or Japan.—Country Gentleman.

### Our New York Letter.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Just after my letter was sent last week came the Sully crash, of which, of course, all your readers have been informed. It was mighty tough on Sully, and there was nothing for King Cotton to do but to break, and break it did; but its downfall was not half so great as that of Sully. He was happy though, inasmuch as he supposed his creditors would accept his proposition and accept some long-term notes; but when this was refused and he found himself a positive bankrupt his placidity received a good deal of a shock, and he remarked that he didn't have five cents; no, not even the clothes he had on were his. Of course, it is easy to moralize over the fall of a man who a short time ago seemed to be supreme in cotton. But the story has been so often repeated that all the oceans of advice being given will do no good. Somebody else will corner something and the experiment will be repeated indefinitely. Sully's liabilities are thought now to be "only" two and a half millions of dollars.

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Sully openly "gambled" in cotton. Another man gambled secretly in a "rich man's gambling place" and is said, on authority of the district attorney, to have lost, in a half-drunk mood in four nights, something like \$400,000. There is a good deal of food for thought in both these operations. The private gambler has by no means lost his all, and is probably working in the same manner yet. It has been the supreme desire of the authorities to have a law passed whereby the owner of this gambling place could be convicted. The Legislature has been appealed to, and after one of the most bitter debates ever known at Albany, a law has been passed whereby the bird will become the game of the State. This law makes it compulsory for witnesses to tell what they know about the place so far as their own experience goes, and, while the average man could never gain admittance to this place, there is no doubt but the moral effect of the recently-enacted law, and we feel now that the rich gambler can no more escape because he is rich, than can the little man whom the masses seem to patronize so liberally.

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There is little change in markets since last week. Cotton forms an exception, of course, and the break in the staple has been great. After the Sully failure the market strengthened, but on Tuesday it was off again, and the net decline was from 30 to 79 points. Even at the lower prices spinners are not inclined to take hold and the question is, how much more must the staple drop before consumers are interested? At the close, middling uplands are quotable at about 14c., against 10.15c. same time last year.

Spirits of turpentine have again shown some decline, and are listed at 61c., with little or nothing doing.

Vegetables are coming in freely. North Carolina lettuce 75c@1.25 per basket; potatoes, Southern, and Western, \$2.75@\$3 for 180 pounds bulk.

R. A. D.  
New York City, March 24, 1904.